

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

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1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) The humidity sensor as claimed in claim + 4, wherein the lower electrode or the upper electrode predominantly contains platinum.

3. (Currently Amended) The humidity sensor as claimed in claim + 4, wherein the lower electrode comprises a porous body.

4. (Currently Amended) A humidity sensor comprising:

an insulating substrate;

a lower electrode, a moisture sensitive layer and an upper electrode successively formed on the insulating substrate; and

~~The humidity sensor as claimed in claim + comprising~~ a heater provided in the insulating substrate,

wherein the lower electrode comprises a noble metal, the upper electrode comprises a noble metal porous body, and the upper electrode is joined to the moisture sensitive layer and a portion of the insulating substrate.

5. (Currently Amended) The humidity sensor as claimed in claim 4, comprising a temperature measurement resistor provided in the insulating substrate.

6. (Original) The humidity sensor as claimed in claim 4, wherein the heater is located directly below the moisture sensitive layer.

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7. (Original) The humidity sensor as claimed in claim 5, wherein the temperature measurement resistor is located directly below the moisture sensitive layer.

8. (Currently Amended) A humidity sensor comprising:  
  
an insulating substrate; and  
  
a lower electrode, a moisture sensitive layer and an upper electrode successively formed on the insulating substrate,  
  
wherein the lower electrode comprises a noble metal, the upper electrode comprises a noble metal porous body, and the upper electrode is joined to the moisture sensitive layer and a portion of the insulating substrate, and  
  
wherein the ~~The humidity sensor is as claimed in claim 1,~~ adapted for measuring humidity in an atmosphere containing a very small amount of oxygen and containing a reducing gas.

9. (Currently Amended) A humidity sensor comprising:

an insulating substrate; and

a lower electrode, a moisture sensitive layer and an upper electrode successively formed on the insulating substrate,

wherein the lower electrode comprises a noble metal, the upper electrode comprises a noble metal porous body, and the upper electrode is joined to the moisture sensitive layer and a portion of the insulating substrate, and

A humidity sensor according to claim 1, wherein a size of pores in the upper electrode is 0.5-20  $\mu\text{m}$ .

10. (Currently Amended) A humidity sensor comprising:

an insulating substrate; and

a lower electrode, a moisture sensitive layer and an upper electrode successively formed on the insulating substrate,

wherein the lower electrode comprises a noble metal, the upper electrode comprises a noble metal porous body, and the upper electrode is joined to the moisture sensitive layer and a portion of the insulating substrate, and

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~~A humidity sensor according to claim 3~~, wherein a size of pores in the lower electrode is 0.5-20  $\mu\text{m}$ .

11. (Currently Amended) A humidity sensor according to claim 4, wherein a size of pores in the moisture sensitive layer is 0.05-0.2  $\mu\text{m}$ .

12. (Currently Amended) A humidity sensor comprising:

an insulating substrate; and

a lower electrode, a moisture sensitive layer and an upper electrode successively formed on the insulating substrate,

wherein the lower electrode comprises a noble metal, the upper electrode comprises a noble metal porous body, and the upper electrode is joined to the moisture sensitive layer and a portion of the insulating substrate, and

~~A humidity sensor according to claim 1~~, wherein particles of ceramic are incorporated in an amount of 1-20 wt% into the upper electrode.

13. (Currently Amended) A humidity sensor comprising:

an insulating substrate; and

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a lower electrode, a moisture sensitive layer and an upper electrode successively formed on the insulating substrate,

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wherein the lower electrode comprises a noble metal, the upper electrode comprises a noble metal porous body, and the upper electrode is joined to the moisture sensitive layer and a portion of the insulating substrate, and

~~A humidity sensor according to claim 1,~~ wherein particles of ceramic are incorporated in an amount of 1-20 wt% into the lower electrode.

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